

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) ~~A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising the steps of~~ A method for classifying a document using a classification system comprising the steps of:

defining a plurality of classes;

identifying source documents of each of said plurality of classes;

generating a classification theme score for each of said classes from the source documents for each of the plurality of classes;

entering an unclassified document into the system;

generating an unclassified document theme score corresponding to said unclassified document;

classifying the unclassified document into one of said plurality of classes when the unclassified document theme score is substantially equal to the classification theme score;

reviewing documents in each of said plurality of classes;

determining misclassified documents; and

assigning a theme score to the misclassified documents.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising the steps of~~ A method for classifying a document using a classification system comprising the steps of:

defining a plurality of classes;

identifying source documents of each of said plurality of classes;

generating a classification theme score for each of said classes from the source documents for each of the plurality of classes;

entering an unclassified document into the system;

generating an unclassified document theme score corresponding to said unclassified document;

classifying the unclassified document into one of said plurality of classes when the unclassified document theme score is substantially equal to the classification theme score;
and

weighting a predetermined section of the unclassified document, said predetermined section comprising a plurality of words.

4. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 3 wherein said predetermined section comprises one from the group of an abstract; an international classification; a U.S. classification, claims section and a title.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~A method as recited in claim 4 further comprising the step of~~ A method for classifying a document using a classification system comprising the steps of:

defining a plurality of classes;

identifying source documents of each of said plurality of classes;

generating a classification theme score for each of said classes from the source documents for each of the plurality of classes;

entering an unclassified document into the system;

generating an unclassified document theme score corresponding to said unclassified document;

classifying the unclassified document into one of said plurality of classes when the unclassified document theme score is substantially equal to the classification theme score;
and

forming a first and second subclass from a class.

6. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 5 wherein said step of forming a first and second subclass comprises identifying a selected group of related documents from said class.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising~~
A method for classifying a document using a classification system comprising the steps of:

defining a plurality of classes;

identifying source documents of each of said plurality of classes;

generating a classification theme score for each of said classes from the source documents for each of the plurality of classes;

entering an unclassified document into the system;

generating an unclassified document theme score corresponding to said unclassified document;

classifying the unclassified document into one of said plurality of classes when the unclassified document theme score is substantially equal to the classification theme score;

reclassifying a plurality of classes into a plurality of new classes by:

identifying source documents for each of said plurality of new classes;

generating a respective plurality of new class theme scores for each of said plurality of new classes;

reclassifying documents within said plurality of classes into the plurality of new classes when a classified document theme score is substantially similar to one of the respective new class theme scores.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) ~~A method as recited in claim 8 further comprising the steps of~~ A method for classifying a document using a classification system comprising the steps of:

establishing a plurality of classes and a plurality of subclasses;

identifying source documents of each of said plurality of classes and said plurality of subclasses;

generating a classification theme score for each class and each subclass in response to the source documents;

entering an unclassified document into the system;

generating an unclassified theme score for the unclassified document; and

classifying the document into one of said plurality of classes when the unclassified document theme score is substantially equal to the classification theme score;

reviewing documents in said class;

determining misclassified documents; and

assigning a theme score to the misclassified documents

10. (Currently Amended) ~~A method as recited in claim 8 further comprising the steps of~~ A method for classifying a document using a classification system comprising the steps of:

establishing a plurality of classes and a plurality of subclasses;

identifying source documents of each of said plurality of classes and said plurality of subclasses;

generating a classification theme score for each class and each subclass in response to the source documents;

entering an unclassified document into the system;

generating an unclassified theme score for the unclassified document; and

classifying the document into one of said plurality of classes when the unclassified document theme score is substantially equal to the classification theme score; and

weighting a predetermined section of the unclassified document, said predetermined section comprising a plurality of words.

11. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 10 wherein said predetermined section is one from the group of an abstract; an international classification; a U.S. classification, claims section and a title.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~A method as recited in claim 8 further comprising~~

A method for classifying a document using a classification system comprising the steps of:

establishing a plurality of classes and a plurality of subclasses;

identifying source documents of each of said plurality of classes and said plurality of subclasses;

generating a classification theme score for each class and each subclass in response to the source documents;

entering an unclassified document into the system;

generating an unclassified theme score for the unclassified document; and

classifying the document into one of said plurality of classes when the unclassified document theme score is substantially equal to the classification theme score;

reclassifying a plurality of classes into a plurality of new classes by:

identifying source documents for each of said plurality of new classes;

generating respective new class theme scores;

reclassifying documents with said plurality of classes into the plurality of new classes when the classified document theme score is equal to one of the respective new class theme scores.

13-15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) ~~A system as recited in claim 13 wherein said controller is programmed to~~ A system for classifying documents comprising:

a document input for entering an unclassified document;

a document storage memory;

a controller coupled to said document input and document storage memory said controller programmed to classify documents into a plurality of classes by identifying source documents of each of said plurality of classes, generating a classification theme score categorizing documents into said classes, and classifying the document into one of said plurality of classes when an unclassified document theme score is substantially similar to the classification theme score, said controller further programmed to identify source documents for each of a plurality of new classes; generate respective new classification theme scores; and reclassify documents with said plurality of classes into the plurality of new classes when a document theme score is substantially similar to the new class theme score.

17. (Currently Amended) A system as recited in claim 13 ~~16~~ wherein said controller is programmed to assign a weight to sections of an unclassified document.

18. (Currently Amended) A system as recited in claim 13 ~~16~~ wherein said controller is programmed to classify documents into a subclass.

19. (New) A system as recited in claim 16 wherein said document input comprises the Internet.

20. (New) A system as recited in claim 16 wherein said document input comprises a scanner.